THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
1230 YORK AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021-6399

July 31, 1985

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President

Dear Josh,

I received Dr. Bartholomew's letter to you and I'm well aware of his interest in the HLA studies in his patients. In fact, we did discuss it at one time in Trinidad and suggested we might be able to get the bloods to Dr. Fotino at the blood center provided he paid the costs of transport, needles, etc. Since the number of patients and subjects needed for the study would be now about 200 (sixty in each group: 1) 60 Black patients, 60 Black controls, 60 Indian controls). This would be a formidable task and monies. I think he realizes that and that's the reason for the last line of the letter (my arrow).

Kunkel's group might be the one to tackle this but the main HLA people like Winchester and Gibofsky are no longer here and I know Bob is not in this area.

The study is perhaps worthwhile mainly because it appears to be so race restricted. However, that may be a patient population bias of his population group (North Trinidad is predominantly Black). In the U.S. my understanding is it crosses most racial barriers.

With this preamble I would suggest the following:

1) Rockefeller is not in the position to directly handle these studies since the human genetics group is no longer involved in this area.

2) The best bet would be to contact CDC or Dr. Gallo at the NIH with this proposal. In fact I'm surprised he has not contacted Gallo since they have worked together on the original isolation of virus etc. on Bartholomew's cases.

In general I think the logistics of transporting blood of this type (AlOs patients) may be quite difficult and perhaps could only be handled by federal agencies in any case.

Finally, I contacted some experts in the field and they say much of the work he contemplates is actually being done in the U.S. However, his unique population is perhaps worth studying.

If you have any questions, please call me.
Best regards,

John B. Zabriskie, M.D.